

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An apparatus for gripping the teat of an animal assisting in drawing milk therefrom. The apparatus includes a housing and more than one constricting element arranged in the housing so that the constricting elements, which are operable in both constricting and non-constricting modes, periodically constrict the teat. The apparatus further includes means for switching the constricting elements back and forth between non-constricting and constricting modes. The apparatus includes a controller in communication with the means for switching, which in accordance with a predetermined timing and spatial sequence controls the periodic switching of the constricting elements from constricting to non-constricting modes and vice-versa. A system including such a gripping apparatus for drawing milk from the teat of an animal is also taught. Similarly, a method for milking an animal which imitates hand milking and does not employ a vacuum system is described.